National Canners Association

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Information Letter

For N. C. A. Members

Membership Letter No. 87. October 25, 1924.

Cornell University Issues Bulletins on Canning Crops.
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Cornell University Issues Bulletins on Canning Crops.

The Raw Products Research Bureau is in receipt of three very interesting bulletins issued by the Extension Service of Cornell University in September. The titles are, respectively, "Growing Tomatoes for the Canning Factory", "Growing Sweet Corn for the Canning Factory" and "Growing Peas for the Canning Factory".

New York State conditions surrounding the growing of these crops for canning purposes are described in detail. There is some excellent material on the value of pea vine ensilage, pea vine hay, and sweet corn ensilage. While written primarily for growers and canners of New York State, there is much of interest in these publications for canners in other regions. The publications may be secured by application to the New York State College of Agriculture, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

A Relation Between Vitamines and Sunlight.

It has long been known that cod liver oil is a cure for rickets. A few years ago it was also shown that rickets could be cured by exposing the patient to the direct rays of the sun or to the radiations from a quartz mercury-vapor lamp. The latter gives off ultra-violet rays and it is the ultra-violet rays of the sunlight which are effective. The action of cod liver oil and these rays was so similar that it was believed there was some relationship.

Last year Goldblatt and Soames - English investigators - showed that rickets in rats could be cured by feeding them livers of other rats which had been cured of rickets by ultra-violet rays.

Within the current year Professor Hess of Columbia University and Professor Steembock of Wisconsin University have independently shown that, when practically any food material is exposed to the rays of the quartz mercury-vapor lamp, this food becomes a cure for rickets. For example, cottonseed oil and linseed oil can be made as good a cure for rickets as cod liver oil itself. This indicates that with fats there is associated a substance which may be converted by ultra-violet rays into a curative substance for rickets. This natural principle in cod liver oil which cures rickets, it may be remembered, is known as vitamin D.

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A somewhat similar relationship exis ts in seeds which contain no vitamin C or antiscorbutic vitamin, but when these seeds are sprouted, the sprouts contain liberal quantities of vitamin C. The sprouting process apparently renders some substance active, which the seeds originally contained.

Importance of Promptness in Investigations.

To make most effective the Association's work of investigating cases of alleged illness attributed to canned foods, it is very important that complaints be promptly reported. Otherwise, it is often impossible to secure the evidence or information necessary.

The following example illustrates this:

On October 14 the Association received a telegram regarding a case of death said to be due to eating canned peas. On October 16 a telegraphic report was received from our investigator, stating definitely that death was not the result of food poisoning and that canned foods were not involved at all.

Sales Plan Upheld by Supreme Court.

A recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, favorable to the National Biscuit Company and against the Federal Trade Commission, leaves the Company free to continue its policy of allowing graded discounts in selling its products.

The Federal Trade Commission had issued an order for the Company to stop quoting different prices to different classes of purchasers, such as independent retail stores and operators of chain store systems, unless such differences were due to quality of product, cost of selling or transportation or to meet local competition.

The Commission's order also prohibited giving a discount on the gross sales to a system of chain stores, if the same discount is not allowed to associations or combinations of independent grocers.

The Supreme Court has evidently agreed with the lower courts in failing to find anything illegal in the sales policy above described and the decision is of far-reaching importance to all manufacturers and distributors.

The following quotation from the decision of the Court of Appeals in this famous case is especially noteworthy:

> "Effective competition requires that merchants have freedom of action in conducting their own affairs. To be successful may increase or render insuperable the difficulties that rivals must face, but it does not constitute reprehensible or fraudulent methods."

The American Public Health Association.

The American Public Health Association held its fifty- third annual convention in Detroit this week. About a thousand members were present, including state and municipal health officers, and workers in public health in all sections of the country.

In his address as chairman of the Food and Drugs Section, Doctor Bigelow

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suggested a reorganization of the standing committees of the Section and that since that association includes federal, state, and municipal officials, as well as representatives of the laboratories of the manufacturers of foods , it may well afford a common meeting ground in which all public health questions relating to food and drugs can be discussed from all standpoints.

Doctor Eddy, of Columbia University, New York City, was present at this meeting, and gave a resumé of the work on vitamins in canned foods which he is conducting in cooperation with Doctor Kohman of the Research Laboratory of the National Canners Association, and which has been noted in previous Membership Letters.

Dr. Wiley Honored.

Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, formerly Chief of the U. S. Bureau of Chemistry and well known writer and authority on foods and agricultural chemistry, was given a complimentary dinner in Washington recently on the occasion of his eightieth birthday. The dinner was attended by a large number of his personal friends and associates. Two members of the Washington office of the Association, who formerly served under Dr. Wiley in the Bureau of Chemistry, were present at the dinner.

A bronze medallion was presented to Dr. Wiley as a tribute to his great work for agriculture and public health.

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